



IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-18 (Cancelled)

Claim 19 (New): A water-based composition comprising:

(A) at least one chitosan, and

(B) a metal compound comprising at least one metal selected from the group consisting of Ti, Zr, Hf, Mo, W, Se, Ce, Fe, V and trivalent Cr.

Claim 20 (New): The water-based composition of Claim 19, wherein said wherein said chitosan (A) is obtained by subjected chitin to 60 to 100% mole % deacetylation.

Claim 21 (New): The water-based composition of Claim 19, wherein said metal compound (B) is a metal oxide or hydroxide.

Claim 22 (New): The water-based composition of Claim 19, wherein said metal compound (B) is an organic acid salt or inorganic acid salt.

Claim 23 (New): The water-based composition of Claim 19, wherein said metal compound (B) is trivalent Cr, Ti, Zr, V, Mo or Ce.

Claim 24 (New): The water-based composition of Claim 19, further comprising (C) an organic compound having at least one carboxyl group.

Claim 25 (New): A method comprising:

Response to Official Action of May 2, 2006

coating a material, which is to be treated, at a surface thereof with the water-based composition of claim 19,
optionally rinsing the surface of the material with water subsequent to said coating,
and
heating and drying said material in a temperature range of from 80°C to 300°C.

Claim 26 (New): The method of Claim 25, wherein a dry coat weight of said chitosan (A) to said surface of said treated material is in a range of from 1 to 500 mg/m² calculated as chitosan, and

a dry coat weight of said metal compound (B) to said surface of said treated material is in a range of from 1 to 500 mg/m² calculated as said metal.

Claim 27 (New): A coated metal comprising:
a metal substrate, and
a coating; wherein said coating has been formed by applying to said metal substrate the water-based composition of Claim 19.

Claim 28 (New): The coated metal of Claim 27, wherein said metal substrate is aluminum, magnesium, copper, iron, zinc, nickel, or an alloy thereof.

Claim 29 (New): A water-based composition comprising:
(A) at least one chitosan derivative, and
(B) a metal compound comprising at least one metal selected from the group consisting of Ti, Zr, Hf, Mo, W, Se, Ce, Fe, Cu, Zn, V and trivalent Cr.

Claim 30 (New): The water-based composition of Claim 29, wherein said at least one chitosan derivative is a reaction product obtained by carboxylating, glycolizing, tosylating, sulfating, phosphatizing, etherifying or alkylating hydroxyl groups and/or amino groups of chitosan; or wherein said chitosan derivative is cationized chitosan.

Claim 31 (New): The water-based composition of Claim 29, wherein chitosan (A) is selected from the group consisting of at least one of carboxymethylchitosan, hydroxyalkylchitosan and glycerated chitosan; or a salt thereof.

Claim 32 (New): The water-based composition of Claim 29, wherein said metal compound (B) is a metal oxide or hydroxide.

Claim 33 (New): The water-based composition of Claim 29, wherein said metal compound (B) is an organic acid salt or inorganic acid salt.

Claim 34 (New): The water-based composition of Claim 29, wherein said metal compound (B) is trivalent Cr, Ti, Zr, V, Mo or Ce.

Claim 35 (New): The water-based composition of Claim 29, further comprising (C) an organic compound having at least one carboxyl group.

Claim 36 (New): A method comprising:
coating a material, which is to be treated, at a surface thereof with the water-based composition of claim 29,
optionally rinsing the surface of the material with water subsequent to said coating,

and

heating and drying said material in a temperature range of from 80°C to 300°C.

Claim 37 (New): The method of Claim 36, wherein a dry coat weight of chitosan derivative (A) to said surface of said treated material is in a range of from 1 to 500 mg/m² calculated as chitosan derivative, and

a dry coat weight of said metal compound (B) to said surface of said treated material is in a range of from 1 to 500 mg/m² calculated as said metal.

Claim 38 (New): A coated metal comprising:

a metal substrate, and

a coating; wherein said coating has been formed by applying to said metal substrate the water-based composition of Claim 29.

Claim 39 (New): The coated metal of Claim 37, wherein said metal substrate is aluminum, magnesium, copper, iron, zinc, nickel, or an alloy thereof.